

Michael F. Easley
Governor



State of North Carolina
Office of the Governor

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Contact: Renee Hoffman
Phone: 919/ 733-5612

GOV. EASLEY ANNOUNCES OPERATION *SLOW DOWN* 2007
State Highway Patrol and Local Law Enforcement Agencies Crack Down on Speeding

RALEIGH – Gov. Mike Easley announced today that the N.C. Highway Patrol is kicking off its annual Operation *Slow Down 2007* campaign to catch speeders on North Carolina's highways. The Governor's Highway Safety Program and local law enforcement agencies also will participate by conducting *No Need 2 Speed* in conjunction with Operation *Slow Down* with a combined goal of encouraging drivers to slow down and follow the speed limit.

"The Highway Patrol is determined to reduce fatal collisions in North Carolina by going after speeders who recklessly endanger our citizens," said Easley. "Speeding and irresponsible driving are the leading causes of traffic deaths and collisions in our state. Operation *Slow Down 2007* will help in our efforts to reverse that trend."

During Operation *Slow Down 2006*, troopers issued more than 80,000 traffic citations, the majority for speeding. More importantly, speed related collisions dropped 10 percent from the previous year.

Operation *Slow Down 2007* enforcement efforts will be conducted across the state at various times throughout the year. The campaign will focus on motorists exceeding the posted speed limit on interstates and major four-lane highways. Troopers will use helicopters, motorcycles and unmarked patrol vehicles to target the most dangerous roadways in each county. They will also be looking for speeding commercial motor vehicle drivers who may be committing serious traffic violations. These violations include following too closely, improper or erratic lane changes, careless and reckless driving and any violation of the motor vehicle laws that can result in serious injury or death.

Operation *Slow Down* was begun by the Highway Patrol in 2005 in an effort to reduce traffic collisions across the state. The Governor's Highway Safety Program kicked off a pilot *No Need 2 Speed* campaign in June 2006 that focused on roads with a history of speed-related crashes in Robeson, Cumberland, Harnett and Johnston counties. A Department of Transportation study conducted after the campaign showed that the increased enforcement was successful in reducing speeds on the rural roads that were targeted as part of the project.

Dangerous driving can be reported to the Highway Patrol by dialing *HP on cellular phones from anywhere in the state. For more information about Operation *Slow Down 2007*, visit the N.C. Department of Crime Control and Public Safety's website at www.nccrimecontrol.org/shp. For more information on *No Need 2 Speed*, go to the Governor's Highway Safety Program website at <http://www.ncdot.org/programs/GHSP/initiatives/nn2s.html>.

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Governor's Press Office
State Capitol, Raleigh, NC 27603-8001
(919) 733-5612 - Toll Free 1-800-662-7005
FAX (919) 733-5166